(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Agricultural production of various Kharif crops in the country depends on the quantity and spread of rainfall during the monsoon season (July-September). As per the information furnished by India Meteorological Department, delay of one to two weeks in arrival of monsoon in certain States such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, East Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, East Uttar Pradesh has been observed. As a result, some delay in sowing of Rice, Groundnut, Soyabean in these States has been reported.

Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation

731. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving importance to drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of hectares of crop covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Committee/Task Force was constituted long back to study and submit a report with regard to drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations that have been implemented by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in January, 2006 to promote drip and sprinkler irrigation system in the country.

(b) The details of area covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation system year-wise, State-wise since inception of the scheme is given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The main recommendations of Task Force is given in enclosed Statement-II (*See* below). The recommendations that have been implemented by the Government are as follows:-

i) An area of 14 lakh ha. have been covered under Micro Irrigation (MI) system in the country since inception of the scheme.

ii) Financial assistance is available for all crops except tea, coffee, rubber and oil palm and for all categories of farmers.

iii) The financial assistance is provided @ 50% of unit cost out of which 40% is borne by the Government of India and 10% is contributed by the State Government.

iv) States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat etc. have raised the State share ranging from 20% to 35% in order to popularize the scheme.

v) The funds are being released directly to the district implementing agency of each State for speedy disbursal to the farmers.

vi) At present, there is 100% exemption of excise duty on micro irrigation equipment and only 5% custom duty is levied on such equipment.

Statement-I

Statewise and yearwise details of area covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation system since inception of the scheme

(Area in ha .)

S. No.	State	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
		Drip	Sprinkler	Total	Drip	Sprinkler	Total	Drip	Sprinkler	Total	Drip	Sprinkler	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	5681	1094	6775	60873	30525	91398	97378.00	17468	114846.00	87381	36200	123581
2	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	223.80	0	223.80	81.69	0	81.69
3	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	802	3798	4600	381.74	20449	20830.74	2172.4	34121.56	36293.96
4	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
5	Goa	0	0	0	8	0	8	100.50	9.02	109.52	5.39	70.71	76.1
6	Gujarat	4910.10	131.94	5042.04	12048.56	12289.04	24337.6	21356.27	21680.83	43037.10	34028	19399	53427
7	Haryana	0	0	0	1018.19	1804.81	2823	2785.60	4999.39	7784.99	2141.52	20160.17	22301.69
8	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
9	Karnataka	0	0	0	24972.7	13877.3	38850	20540.00	42399	62939.00	22737.3	69885	92622.3
10	Kerala	0	0	0	800	260.16	1060.18	1587.53	516.9	2104.43	947.65	580.93	1528.78
11	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	2705.01	381.99	3087	2246.57	2464.63	4711.20	15971.5	22327.84	38299.34
12	Maharashtra	0	0	0	59257	49003	108260	60182.00	22042	82224.00	60011	34701	94712
13	Orissa	0	0	0	278.72	943.28	1222	1143.20	1926.28	3069.48	2100	582.53	2682.53
14	Punjab	0	0	0	1123	300	1423	3563.22	624.15	4187.37	2787.48	409.58	3197.06
15	Rajasthan	0	0	0	2709	65012	67721	19865.00	53870	73735.00	5097	72632	77729
16	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	6221.97	1597.62	7819.59	10906.1	667.71	11573.81
17	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	863	1000	1663	3189.00	1470	4659.00	921.48	366	1287.48
18	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	89	89	131.00	0	131.00	55.6	0	55.6
	TOTAL :	10591.11	1225.941	11817.041	167458.18	179283.601	346741.78	240895.40	191516.82	432412.221	247345.311	312104.031	559449.34

Statement-II

Major Recommendations of Task Force Committee on Micro Irrigation

i) A total of 17 million ha. need to be covered under Micro Irrigation in the country by the end of XI Plan including 3 million ha. during X Plan.

ii) Financial Assistance should be available on all crops.

iii) The rate of financial assistance to the farmers should be 50% of unit cost.

iv) Out of this 50%, 40% share of assistance should be from GoI and the balance 10% will be contributed by the respective State Governments.

v) The States may raise their share through RIDF loan from NABARD.

vi) The funds need to be released through States with full proof method and the main focus will be the farmers.

vii) There should be tax concessions to make the system affordable by farmers.

Availability of quality seeds to farmers

732. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality seeds are not made available to the farmers in time during the sowing seasons in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen the mechanism of making good quality seeds available to farmers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Uttar Pradesh has indicated a surplus seed availability in major crops for Kharif 2009, *i.e.,* Paady, Urd, Moong, Arhar and Groundnut, Marginal regional shortfall reported in Maize, Til, Bajra, Jowar in Kharif 2009 has been tied up/can be easily met from available national surplus. Bihar has reported State level shortfall in Paddy and Arhar only. The State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) and National Seeds Corporation (NSC) had immediately indicated availability of Paddy and Arhar seeds to the State to meet the shortfall.

(b) Assistance for seed sector is provided under the following schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:

i. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

ii. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

iii. Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)

iv. Technology Mission on Cotton.

v. Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta.

vi. Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.

vii. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

The components covered under the Scheme are given in the enclosed statement.